

Application No.: 10/681,533
Amendment Dated: May 27, 2005
Reply to Office Action of: February 28, 2005

MAT-8456US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 2-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. These claims have been appropriately amended to clarify the language therein. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-12 have been allowed.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohtsuka (U.S. Patent No. 5,923,751). It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are patentable over Ohtsuka for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... a rotor ...

... a reverse-rotor ...

Ohtsuka includes rotor 13. The Official Action indicates that rotor 13 is analogous to both Applicants' rotor and reverse-rotor. However, Applicants have claimed their rotor and reverse-rotor as two distinct parts. This is different than Ohtsuka where only a single rotor is shown. For this reason, claim 1 is patentable over Ohtsuka.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a further feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... a rotor ... urged in an axial direction ... by a rotor spring ...

... a reverse-rotor ... urged in the axial direction ... by a reverse rotor spring ...

Thus, Applicants' claim 1 has recited both a rotor and a reverse-rotor which are both urged in an axial direction by respective springs. Again, this feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by Ohtsuka. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Ohtsuka.

Claims 2-6 are patentable by virtue of their dependency on allowable claim 1.

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Claim 13 is newly added. Claim 13 recites that the reverse-rotor spring is accommodated in an inner periphery of the rotor spring. This is supported by Applicants' originally filed application by Applicants' Fig. 2. No new matter has been added.

The feature of one spring within another is completely absent from Ohtsuka. For this additional reason, claim 13 is patentable over Ohtsuka.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515
Attorney for Applicants

LEA/dlm/fp

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P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

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